(d) whether in contravention of the provisions of official language Act, dozens of equipments providing facility of working in English/Roman language have been installed and now the use of bilingual equipments is talked about but it is not known as to who, why, where, how and for whom it will be used while all the files are maintained only in English/Roman language;

(e) whether all the Ministries send their letters to Hindi speaking States in English and the Hindi speaking States are compelled to send their plans and budget in English language; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) The work of the Department of Official Language like other Deptts. of MHA is executed by the Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs. Generally, the tenure of Hindi Salahakar Samitties is three years. After expiry of the tenure, these are re-constituted. Concerned Ministries are required to hold four meetings in a year. Directions are issued from time to time to the Ministries for holding meeting in time.

(b) Two meetings of the Hindi Salahakar Samittee were held during the year 1995.

(c) In the Annual Programme, different targets are fixed for various items relating to progressive use of Hindi. Targets have been achieved in respect of some items and various Deptts. of Govt. of India are making efforts to achieve the targets of such items for which the same have not been achieved.

(d) There are standing orders to the offices of Central Govt. that all electronic equipments being purchased by the Offices, should have the facility of working in Devnagari script in addition to Roman script. Wherever the violation of these orders come to notice, the concerned offices are reminded to follow the orders. The use of these equipments is necessary for achieving the targets fixed in the Annual Programme.

(e) and (f). Plans and Budget proposals are prepared bilingually. No instance of compelling any Hindi speaking State to send the information relating to these only in English by any Ministry has come to the notice of the Government.

[English]

National Human Rights Commission

770. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission has asked the Chief Ministers of States and Union Territories to take steps to pass an appropriate resolution in their respective States authorising parliamentary legislation on prisons;

(b) if so, the main points referred to by the National Human Rights Commission in this regard;

(c) whether the Union Government have considered the views expressed by the Human Rights Commission in this regard;

(d) if so, whether Union Government are considering to convene a meeting of State Home Ministers to discuss the issue; and

(e) if so, the time by which the same is likely to be convened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b). Chairperson, National Human Rights Commission forwarded a copy of Model Prison Bill drafted by the Core Group set up by the Commission to Chief Ministers of State Governments on 29.8.96 requesting that the appropriate resolution be passed by the State Legislature authorising the Parliamentary Legislation of Prisons in public interest in the light of the fact that "Prison" is a matter in the List II of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution and Parliament will have no authority to legislate unless action under Article 252 of the Constitution is taken by the States.

(c) to (e). Government have received a reference from the National Human Rights Commission in this regard only on 21.11.96. The matter is under examination.

[Translation]

Loans to Poor Persons

771. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of poor persons provided loans by the Scheduled Caste, Women and Other Backward Classes Corporations during 1994-95 and the current year;

(b) the total amount disbursed as loan during the financial year 1995-96 and the current financial year, and

(c) whether the amount has actually been utilised by the poor persons for the purchase of those articles for which the same was meant?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) and (b) The amount of loan disbursed and poor persons benefitted during 1995-96 and the current year is as follows :

1. National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation

Year	Loan disbursed (Rs. in lakhs)	Persons benefitted
1995-96	2335.92	10071
1996-97 (upto 20-11-96)	1380.79	698